

MESSAGE No. 1.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, COLUMBIA, S. C., Nov. 24, 1856.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives :

The object for which you were recently convened in extra session has been determined. The popular voice has declared in favor of the party of our preference. The past admonishes us to reserve the full measure of our rejoicing to the day when the avowed policy of the party shall have been honestly carried out ; when justice shall be reëstablished, and tranquility be restored to the country. Then, indeed, will the victory be one worthy of the strongest demonstration which patriotism can indulge. So far as the result may be regarded as a rebuke to that Northern party, whose principle of cohesion is hatred to the South, we share in the general satisfaction. Considered in reference to the vital issue between the North and South, I fear that it will be a barren triumph—that it will prove to be, at best, but a brief respite of feverish, exhausting excitement, destined to end in embittered feeling and distracted counsel among ourselves. Slavery and Free-soilism can never be reconciled. Our enemies have been defeated—not vanquished. A majority of the free States have declared against the South, upon a purely sectional issue, and in the remainder of them, formidable minorities fiercely contended for victory under the same banner. The triumph of this geographical party must dissolve the confederacy, unless we are prepared to sink down into a state of acknowledged inferiority. We will act wisely to employ the interval of repose afforded by the late election, in earnest preparation for the inevitable conflict. The Southern States have never demanded more than equality and security. They cannot submit to less, and remain in the Union, without dishonor and ultimate ruin.

The internal state of the commonwealth, over whose affairs you are called to deliberate, exhibits a gratifying condition of general prosperity and contentment. The State has been mercifully spared the scourge of the “pestilence which wasteth,” and our people have sown and reaped in peace. Impressed with a sense of our mutual obligations, and with hearts full of gratitude to God, we enter on the work of duty before us.

In the performance of the part assigned to me, I proceed to lay before you such information of the condition of the State, and to recommend to your consideration such measures as I "judge necessary or expedient."

The profits of the Bank of the State for the last year, amount to \$280,469 40, exceeding those of the previous year by \$7,418 48.

During the fiscal year the public debt charged on the bank has been reduced \$64,340 78. The President of the bank informed me that he expected to make a further reduction of about \$35,000, the arrangements for which could not be completed before the close of the fiscal year.

I refer you to the report of the Comptroller General for a detailed statement of the financial condition of the State. Since the 1st of October, 1855, the public debt has been increased as follows: By issue of bonds to construct New State House, \$250,000; by subscription to Blue Ridge Railroad, \$200,000.

The following table exhibits the debt, liability, and assets of the State:

ACTUAL DEBT.		ASSETS.	
3 and 5 per cent. State stock.....	123,407 69	Capital of bank.....	2,770,802 53
Fire loan bonds.....	1,669,868 91	Sinking fund.....	1,490,386 55
Bonds New State House.	500,000 00	Shares in railroads, par value.....	1,742,300 00
Bonds Blue Ridge Railroad.....	400,000 00	Cash on 1st October....	139,625 66
U. S. treasury surplus fund	1,051,422 09		
	3,744,698 69		
LIABILITY.			
Guarantor South Carolina Railroad.....	2,000,000 00		
Debt and liability.....	5,744,698 69		6,143,114 74

The amount of \$10,000 appropriated at the last session to defray the contingent expenses of the executive department, I have had no occasion to draw from the Treasury. With the unexpended balance of last year, and a balance of \$2,594 91, transferred to my credit by my predecessor, I have been able to meet the ordinary drafts on the department. As my term of office is about to expire, I feel no delicacy in making certain recommendations in relation to the department. The salary of the Governor is wholly inadequate to the maintainance of the proper respectability and dignity of the station. I have avoided all unnecessary expense; I have indulged in no

display whatever ; and from my experience, I have no hesitation in saying, that no man can dispense the ordinary hospitality expected of him, nor maintain that style which our people very properly associate with the station, without drawing largely on his private income. The first office in the gift of the people should not be one which the wealthy only can afford to accept. It is no answer to say, there is no want of aspirants for the position. Willing public servants are not generally the most efficient. The republican standard of compensation for all public service, is that which will command the talent that is able to serve the commonwealth. It too often happens that he who has given his life to the public, entails upon his family the incidents of a wasted fortune. I recommend that the salary of the Governor be increased to five thousand dollars ; and that he be required to reside at the capital. On this latter point, I invite your attention to the following extract from the message of the late Gov. Johnson : “The office is itinerant, and follows the person of the Executive wherever his necessities or convenience may compel him to reside. This is utterly inconsistent with the necessary order and uniformity in the conduct of the business of the office. He cannot carry with him all the books, documents, and vouchers, nor his Secretary. He must either dispense with him, or subject him to an expense which would swallow up his small salary. The citizens, too, are interested to know where the Executive may be found, and if he has no fixed residence, are obliged to go in pursuit through highways and by-paths. They may chance to pass him on the way, without knowing him (a case of actual occurrence). The true remedy is to provide him a residence at the seat of government, and require him to reside there permanently.”

The report of General James Jones, Commissioner of New State House, will give you full information of the progress of the work, and his plan of future operations. I constituted him agent to sell the bonds authorized to be issued by the last Legislature. There has been little or no demand for 6 per cent. bonds, and but few of them have been disposed of. The Act forbids the sale of these bonds below par. Had not the Bank advanced the requisite funds, the Commissioner would have been compelled to suspend all operations on the building.

I herewith transmit a communication from the Hon. W. F. Colcock, enclosing a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury to the Light-House Board, and also a copy of the opinion of the Attorney General of the United States, in relation to the provisions of an act of the Legislature of South Carolina granting sites for Light-Houses. On reference to these communications, it will be seen that the General Government declines to proceed, on the ground “that the consent given by South Carolina to the purchase is coupled with the condition that South Carolina retains the jurisdiction.”

Further legislation is asked. I think when the Southern States surrendered to the General Government the power to regulate commerce, they committed a great blunder, but that is no longer a debatable question. If the necessities of commerce require the erection of the proposed Light-Houses, I can see no good reason for declining to make the cession upon the same terms as other States have done. Whenever the people of South Carolina determine to dissolve their connection with the General Government, the possession of a few Light-Houses will interpose but feeble barriers to the execution of such a purpose.

Accompanying this message will be found a report of Mr. Oscar M. Leiber, appointed, under a joint resolution of the last Legislature, "Geological, Mineralogical, and Agricultural Surveyor of the State." The Joint Committees of Agriculture and Internal Improvements of the last General Assembly unanimously selected Mr. Leiber for the situation, and I did not hesitate to confirm the appointment. I have not had time to examine his report, and therefore can express no opinion of its merits.

I lay before you a letter addressed to me by Dr. Parker, Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, in relation to the condition and wants of the institution. His opportunities entitle his opinions to great weight. He is decidedly opposed to the policy of removing the institution from its present location. Additional accommodation is indispensable to enable the Institution to fulfil the humane end of its establishment. I am sure that no appeal is necessary, to secure for it the full measure of your bounty.

I also lay before you a report of the Military Commission, raised in compliance with a resolution of the last Legislature. The resolution required me to appoint ten commissioners to consider the militia and patrol law of the state, and to recommend such alteration of the same as they might deem advisable. Nine of the commissioners appointed discharged the duty assigned them—the tenth was unavoidably absent. They have unanimously agreed on a report, urging the importance of preserving the system as it now stands; and I beg leave respectfully to add my concurrence in the views which brought them to their conclusion.

The last Legislature authorized the Board of Commissioners for the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind, of which I am chairman ex-officio, to purchase for the State the establishment of Mr. N. P. Walker, at Cedar Springs, and to make due arrangements therein for the unfortunate inmates. I am happy to inform you that the purchase has been completed on terms which are satisfactory to the whole Board, and that such further arrangements as are required by this change will be duly submitted for your consideration in a report from the Board more in detail.

The Trustees of the South Carolina College, at their annual meeting in

December last, elected Professor C. F. McCay president of the institution. His ability and attainments are considered by those who know him to be of the highest order; and when the prejudices which he encountered at the very threshold of his administration have been dispelled (if they have not already been), there will be but one opinion as to his fitness for the position to which he was called by a very decided majority of the Board, and that, too, without the slightest solicitation on his part. Mr. Rivers, of Charleston, whose life has been successfully devoted to classical pursuits, has been elected Professor of Greek Literature, in place of Dr. Henry, deceased; and Dr. LeConte, of Georgia, a gentleman of well established scientific attainments, has been elected Professor of Natural and Mechanical Philosophy. Both these appointments, I believe, are admitted on all hands to have been judicious and most fortunate for the institution.

In the death of Dr. Henry the College mourns the departure of an old, able, and faithful professor. He was a ripe scholar—a man full of learning—who, without ostentation, delighted in throwing open the abundant storehouse of his knowledge, and inviting the student to partake freely of its riches. It will be long before it will have the good fortune to rejoice in his equal.

The conduct of the students is reported to me to be quiet and orderly. The Faculty are assiduous in their several departments, and the future of the institution is as encouraging as at any previous period of its existence. Though I was not educated at the College, I have seen and realized its benefits to the State, socially, morally, and politically. It is rare, indeed, that its graduates have failed in after life, by example and conduct, to vindicate the policy which nourishes and sustains it. In my judgment, it has done more for the State than all her other institutions put together. It is greatly to be regretted that there is a disposition to cripple its usefulness, if not to destroy it. The charge that it is the rich man's college, is the cry of the demagogue. Its catalogue shows that a majority of its graduates are the sons of fathers who were not able to educate themselves, and no young man has ever had its doors closed upon him because of his poverty.

It is urged, through entire misconception, that it is time to make it a self-sustaining institution, and the example of various colleges is held up for our imitation. Take away from them their various endowments, and there is not, strictly speaking, a self-sustaining college in the Union. While it is the duty of the State, as far as lies in her power, to instruct the destitute, it is no less imperatively her duty to provide for those who are able to pay for it the very highest standard of education. As a tax-payer, I protest against the withholding from the South Carolina College whatever proportion of my annual taxes goes to its support, if I am at the same time to be taxed for the

support of free schools. Ignorance among the masses is incompatible with the true idea of republican government, but without superior intelligence to control and direct it, the education which contents itself with the mere ability to read and write, will prove a curse rather than a blessing.

The Military Academies continue unobtrusively, but not the less satisfactorily, to pursue their even tenor of usefulness and success. No equal amount of the public expenditure yields a better return. The discipline here is severe, the mental training trying in the extreme, but the cadet who survives the test, finds himself armed for the labor of life before him. I earnestly commend the College and these Academies to your fostering care. Both are developing the intellect and adding to the strength of the State, and both merit your countenance and support.

On the subject of Free Schools, I have but little to add to what I had the honor to submit to your predecessors. I then expressed the opinion that "it was unfortunate that the end, which was evidently contemplated by the act of 1811, had been abandoned, and that what was intended to introduce gradually a general system of common schools has been perverted to the exclusive education of paupers; that, in my judgment, we should return to the policy of 1811, and seek to inaugurate a system, which, in its ultimate development, should bring the means of education within the reach of every family in the State." Since the last session, the Commissioners of Free Schools in the city of Charleston, with similar views as to the best mode of improving education, have opened a common school in that city, and, without abridging the opportunities of the poor, they offer to the tax payers a participation in the benefit from which heretofore they have been excluded. About seven hundred children are now receiving education at this school, and even this large number, I am informed, would be increased if the school accommodations would permit. The complete success which would attend this well-timed and judicious effort is checked only by the difficulty of obtaining proper teachers. This difficulty is also fully brought to the notice of your predecessors, and I would respectfully renew my recommendation that you would earnestly seek to provide an appropriate remedy.

In connection with the general subject of education, it has occurred to me that some encouragement should be held out, to induce the citizen to supply his family with the means of instructive reading, family books, or libraries. I suggest that such encouragement might arise from exempting family books and libraries, in actual use by the owner, from legal process under contracts to be hereafter entered into; and that they should also be exempt from sale by executors and administrators, and that instead they should be delivered over to those to whom they are bequeathed, and in the absence of testamentary disposition, that they be allotted among the family, or next of kin, as in cases of intestacy.

I beg leave to ask of you a favorable consideration of a recommendation of the late Gov. Seabrook, on the subject of drainage. His recommendation was the appointment of commissioners to digest and report a system or scheme on that subject. No possible objection can exist to the appointment of such a commission, and much good may result. When the report is made, it will still be in your power to adopt, modify, or reject it altogether. Large bodies of the very best land in the State lie wholly unproductive, for the want of a law establishing the right and defining the manner of draining them. No man, through obstinacy, or a worse feeling, should be allowed to use his own to the injury of his neighbor. The public good demands a general law which shall secure to every landholder the unobstructed use of the natural drainage of his land.

I submit to you the necessity of some special legislation in relation to funds in the Court of Equity. It not unfrequently happens that, from sale for partition, some of the parties living out of the State, and others being minors without guardians; or from the sale of a trust estate, and no suitable investment offering at the time; or from a fund being in court as a stake, the suit proceeding between contending parties, in order to determine which of them is the rightful owner, the fund lies dead and unproductive to those eventually entitled to it. I am informed that in England, in such cases, the fund is paid into the Bank of England, to the credit of the Accountant General, who checks it out to the parties as their rights accrue; and in the meantime the bank is chargeable with four per cent. interest. If that rate of interest can be safely paid by the bank there, I do not perceive why the Bank of the State could not pay the same rate on similar deposits here. The widows and orphans interested are entitled to protection, and should not be allowed to suffer loss, while their funds are in court. Should you concur with me as to the propriety of legislating on the subject, I suggest that your legislation should also embrace funds in contestation in the courts of law; and I can see no reason, why it might not be extended to money raised by sheriffs. Why should they retain it, and the real owner be deprived of all profit? It exposes them to a temptation to speculate, which I fear is not always resisted. The legitimate fees of that office cannot adequately account for the large gains too often realized.

The outward pressure against the institution of slavery should prompt us to do all we can to fortify it within. Diffusion is strength—concentration, weakness. Our true policy is to diffuse the slave population as much as possible, and thus secure in the whole community the motive of self-interest for its support. I have no doubt of the inherent ability of the institution to maintain itself against all assaults. It is the basis of our political organization, and it would not be difficult to show that the poorest white man among

us is directly concerned in its preservation ; but the argument of self-interest is easy of comprehension and sure of action. I recommend the passage of a law exempting from sale (under contracts to be hereafter entered into) at least one slave. Such an immunity would stimulate every one to exert himself to possess his family at least of a property in some degree above the casualties of debt. As you multiply the number who acquire the property, so will you widen and deepen the determination to sustain the institution.

The consumption of cotton has steadily increased, and will in a few years exceed the supply—not from want, on our part, of land on which to grow it, but from want of operators to cultivate it. The demand for the article being greater than the supply, the price must go up, in the absence of all disturbing causes. As long as this continues to be the case, we must prosper; but the certain effect of high prices will be to stimulate the growth of it in foreign countries, and in time to destroy the monopoly which we have so long enjoyed. The possession of this monopoly is the chief element of Southern prosperity, and the dependence of the manufacturing interest on us for a supply of this article will continue to prove to be one of our strongest safeguards. The amount of cotton now grown in the East Indies should open our eyes to our true policy. The idea that African slaves only can successfully grow cotton, is an entire mistake. Under British domination, free slaves are now producing in the East, more than the entire crop of the United States in 1820. From a report of the Hon. W. L. Marey, Secretary of State, in answer to a resolution of Congress, it appears that during the year 1855, the shipments of cotton to Great Britain, were, from the United States, in round numbers, 679 millions of pounds, and from the East Indies, Egypt, and Brazil, 202 millions of pounds. Whenever England and the Continent can procure their supply of the raw material elsewhere than from us, and the cotton States are limited to the home market, then will our doom be sealed. Destroy the value of slave labor, and emancipation follows inevitably. This, England, our commercial rival, clearly sees, and hence her systematic efforts to stimulate the production of cotton in the East. The success which has thus far attended those efforts, will incite her to redouble them. The East Indies abound in fertile land and cheap labor. France, too, is encouraging and stimulating its growth in Algeria, with like advantages of soil and labor. To maintain our present position, we must have cheap labor also. This can be obtained in but one way—by reopening the African slave trade. Until Providence interposes and changes his organization, the African must continue to be a "hewer of wood and a drawer of water." It is a diseased sentimentality which starts back at the idea of legalizing the slave trade, and at the same time contemplates without emotion the cruel servitude which capital exacts of labor, all the world over. There was a time

when canting philanthropists had instilled into us a belief that slavery was wrong. Investigation has entirely changed the once common sentiment on this point. The South now believes that a mysterious Providence has brought the two races together on this continent for wise purposes, and that the existing relation has been mutually beneficial. Southern slavery has elevated the African to a degree of civilization which the black race has never attained in any other age or country. "We see it now in its true light, and regard it as the most safe and stable basis for free institutions in the world." Had the slave trade never been closed, the equilibrium between the North and the South would not have been destroyed. The North has had the old world from which to draw her supply of labor, and hence the rapid settlement of the Northwest. Since 1808, the South has supplied her own labor, and has necessarily made slower progress in settling up the Southwest. If the trade were now open, I am persuaded that the South would not consent to close it; and this is, perhaps, the best answer to the argument derived from the mere sentiment that is arrayed against the proposition. It is apprehended that the opening of this trade will lessen the value of slaves, and ultimately destroy the institution. It is a sufficient answer to point to the fact, that unrestricted immigration has not diminished the value of labor in the Northwestern section of the confederacy. The cry there is, want of labor, notwithstanding capital has the pauperism of the old world to press into its grinding service. If we cannot supply the demand for slave labor, then we must expect to be supplied with a species of labor we do not want, and which is, from the very nature of things, antagonistic to our institutions. It is much better that our drays should be driven by slaves—that our factories should be worked by slaves—that our hotels should be served by slaves—that our locomotives should be manned by slaves, than that we should be exposed to the introduction, from any quarter, of a population alien to us by birth, training, and education, and which, in the process of time, must lead to that conflict between capital and labor, "which makes it so difficult to maintain free institutions in all wealthy and highly civilized nations where such institutions as ours do not exist." In all slaveholding States, true policy dictates that the superior race should direct, and the inferior perform all menial service. Competition between the white and black man for this service, may not disturb Northern sensibility, but it does not exactly suit our latitude. Irrespective, however, of interest, the act of Congress declaring the slave trade piracy, is a brand upon us, which I think it important to remove. If the trade be piracy, the slave must be plunder; and no ingenuity can avoid the logical necessity of such conclusion. My hopes and fortunes are indissolubly associated with this form of society. I feel that I would be

wanting in duty, if I did not urge you to withdraw your assent to an act, which is itself a direct condemnation of your institutions. But we have interests to enforce a course of self-respect. I believe, as I have already stated, that more slaves are necessary to a continuance of our monopoly in plantation products. I believe that they are necessary to the full development of our whole round of agricultural and mechanical resources; that they are necessary to the restoration of the South, to an equality of power in the General Government, perhaps to the very integrity of slave society, disturbed as it has been by causes which have induced an undue proportion of the ruling race. To us have been committed the fortunes of this peculiar form of society resulting from the union of unequal races. It has vindicated its claim to the approbation of an enlightened humanity. It has civilized and christianized the African. It has exalted the white race itself to higher hopes and purposes, and it is perhaps of the most sacred obligation, that we should give it the means of expansion, and that we should press it forward to a perpetuity of progress.

I have received "Resolutions of the Legislature of New Hampshire in relation to the late acts of violence and blood-shed perpetrated by the slave power, in the Territory of Kansas, and at the National Capital." In the exercise of a discretion which I think rightfully appertains to the Executive department, I decline to lay these resolutions before your honorable bodies. I care not what may be the theory of State intercommunication, I will not submit to be made the medium of transmitting from any quarter, an insult to my own State. The constitution imposes no such duty on the Executive. The usage of the better days of the Republic commands my respect, but it cannot reconcile me to acts of courtesy to those who would gloat in seeing the torch applied to our dwellings and the knife to our throats.

I cannot close this my last regular communication, without a public acknowledgment of gratitude for the opportunity which has been afforded me of serving the State in my present capacity. On retiring I feel but one regret—that my ability to serve her, has not been equal to the love I bear her. Whatever may be my lot in the future, I shall never cease to take a deep interest in whatever concerns her welfare and her honor. I invoke now, and for all time to come, Heaven's choicest blessing on her and her people.

J. H. ADAMS.

